

JORDAN TIMES

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Good advice

The Israeli Labour Party's decision to have Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin lead it into the May general elections comes at a time when Israel should be poised on the verge of historic decisions on its future in the Middle East; decisions on negotiations with the Arabs; on recognition of the Palestinian national reality; on the need to withdraw from occupied Arab territories; on the wisdom of continuing with plans to establish more Jewish settlements on the West Bank and other Arab areas; in short, decisions on the need to exchange its traditional policies of seeking "security" through territorial gain and military action against the Palestinians for a real peace agreement that allows everyone to live in tranquillity in the Middle East.

The choice before the Labour Party -- Mr. Rabin vs. Mr. Peres -- did not in itself augur well for serious peace hopes. Mr. Peres favours the idea of an Israeli fortress state that can depend on itself for its guns (free from U.S. pressures) and that should negotiate with its Arab neighbours on a perpetual step-by-step basis. Mr. Rabin is of the opinion that Israeli settlers in the Jordan Valley should plant olive trees, in the expectation that they'll be there seven years hence to harvest their crops. Both men maintain that Israel can stand fast in the face of the Arabs, the Americans and the world, and that Israel's ultimate safety will come by a maintenance of Israeli military superiority.

One would have liked to have seen a shift in this old line of thinking, particularly in view of the winds of opportunity that are blowing all around the Middle East today. A stream of distinguished international Socialist leaders came to Israel this week to join the Labour Party convention, and every one of them told the Israelis that they must face up to the fact of the Palestinians.

The Labour Party, which will likely remain the dominant force within Israel for years to come, has now worked itself into the peculiar position where it has few friends in the world who will approve its policies of occupation, annexation of Jerusalem and refusal to deal with the Palestinians, but where it defies even the advice of those fellow-Socialists who have stood by it loyally for many years. The inevitable result of this process will be further isolation for Israel and stalemate in the Middle East.

Israel's Socialist friends offer it good advice when they suggest -- at the Labour Party conference no less -- that Israel will get peace when it gives peace to the Palestinians. To shun this advice would be to betray a lack of leadership.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

Three of the Jordanian dailies commented on different topics in their Thursday editorials. AL RAI dealt with the possible use by the Arabs of the oil weapon. AL DUSTOUR discussed the results of the various Middle East tours undertaken by U.S. and European political figures, and AL SHA'B commented on the current Jordanian-Palestinian talks.

AL RAI, under the heading "The oil weapon", says that while Israel has taken advantage of the past two years to arm itself against any military eventuality and has thus acquired a stronger bargaining position, the Arabs have done nothing but wait for the end of the Lebanese tragedy.

This situation is to the disadvantage of the Arabs, the paper says, in particular since it is now certain that the U.S. will stop the flow of arms to the region, thus weakening the Arab position at the conference table. To use the threat of the oil weapon at this stage would be inopportune, the paper adds, as the countries going to Geneva do not own it and its logical use is as a supporting weapon and not a substitute for the military strength of the confrontation states.

The oil weapon alone no longer constitutes an adequate warning for the U.S. to compel it to change its Middle East policy, but needs the military strength of the confrontation states to back it.

This fact should have been taken into account two years ago, the paper concludes, and should have made the Arabs double the military strength of the confrontation states instead of leaving them in a state of near immobility -- waiting for the end of the Lebanese tragedy.

AL DUSTOUR wonders whether the recent visits by the U.S. secretary of state and other European political figures constituted the long-awaited diplomatic activity aimed

at bringing peace to the region? At first glance, the paper says, we are tempted to think so, but when we see no change in Israeli policy following these visits, we cannot but conclude that they only represent a "tranquilliser" administered to the Arabs to make them change their opinion about the date of the convening of the Geneva conference and make them lose themselves in the maze of procedural matters necessary to convene it.

The U.S. and European countries have the necessary means to oblige Israel to change its position. The Arab states do not want to be comforted by the West while it is supplying Israel with arms and giving it support, the paper says. The Arabs should realise, the paper concludes, that this state of affairs is the result of their inability to present a strong front to compel the world to settle the Middle East conflict -- instead of just taking tranquillisers.

AL SHA'B, under the heading "An important achievement", says that no spectacular achievements are expected at this stage of the Jordanian-Palestinian talks. The fact that they are taking place is in itself a positive sign, as it demonstrates the unity of the people on the two banks of the River Jordan, notably after the many attempts which have been made to divide them and weaken their position in the face of the Israeli enemy.

We should now plan for the future, taking into account real Israeli designs and learning from past experience, the paper says.

Unity between the people on the two banks is the only line of defence capable of foiling Israeli designs. It is not important to weep over the loss of lands in the past, the paper concludes, but to know how to hang on to those in our possession. From there we can prepare for liberation.

Saudi Arabia's decision to keep its oil price increase down to 5 per cent was a calculated move which it hopes will bring dividends. Apart from its belief that the economic interest of the oil producers is bound up with those of the industrial nations, it is looking for progress on two fronts. It wants the West to exert pressure on Israel to reach a settlement with the Arabs and it wants genuine concessions to the Third World in the so-called North-South.

LONDON, (Gemin) -- Saudi Arabia's refusal to increase its oil price by more than 5 per cent represents a major power play by that country and may have isolated it temporarily in the Arab world.

Clearly, however, its move was calculated and it is playing for big stakes.

Superficially the reason for the Saudi decision was its belief that the economic interests of the oil producers and the Western consumers are interdependent and that a larger increase would have slowed down the recovery of the industrial nations upon which ultimately the oil producers depend.

But there is far more to the Saudi move than that. In the first place, quite evidently, it is making a determined play for the power leadership of the Middle East. In this respect, it has enormous advantages over all its rivals because of its vast oil reserves. Then there exists the growing relationship with the United States that is mutually beneficial to both parties.

Saudi Arabia is determinedly anti-Communist and again its policy is designed to thwart moves to the left. Thus in an interview at the end of December Sheikh Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, said that fears of a Communist takeover in Italy or France were factors considered in his country's decision to keep the oil price down.

It is symptomatic of Saudi Arabia's growing sense of power and importance that Sheikh Yamani commented freely upon the state of the political health of Britain, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, none of whom he felt were in particularly good shape. Making such comparisons can have a nasty way of backfiring as the more restrained approach of the Shah of Iran recently suggests.

More important than any other of its western relationships, however, is that between Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Saudi Arabia is now the largest source of imported petroleum for the U.S. having passed both Canada and Venezuela. The latest figures show that it accounts for approximately 20 per cent of U.S. imports. In addition, Saudi Arabia has now become a major source of capital for the U.S. Treasury, its banks and corporations.

On the other side the U.S. is becoming increasingly involved in Saudi Arabia. Apart from the four oil giants who make up Aramco, American government agencies and private companies are involved in a whole range of developments in the country -- running hospitals, the airline, designing and building roads, construction in industrial areas and military bas-

es and doing a great deal to equip and train its armed forces. As a result there is a growing inter-dependency between the two countries that has become a major factor in the policies of the area.

For Saudi Arabia the great danger is that it may come to rely on a connection (as has Sadat of Egypt) that in the end could leave it high and dry.

It would be foolish for the West, and especially the U.S.,

to imagine that Saudi Arabia has taken its particular line out of a sense of concern for the West and that nothing need be done in return.

By splitting OPEC Saudi Arabia took a calculated risk; it will want returns within six months ready for the next OPEC meeting scheduled for July. The returns it wants are both, effectively, at the disposal of the U.S.

Algeria holds elections Friday to reconcile revolution and democracy

ALGIERS, Feb 24, (R). -- Algerian voters this week elect a National People's Assembly in a further attempt at what President Houari Boumedienne calls reconciling revolution and democracy.

The Algerian leader, at the head of a revolutionary council and government, has ruled his country by decree ever since he took over from Ahmed Ben Bella in a military-led coup in June 1965.

But on Friday the eight million-strong electorate will be voting for the fourth time in eight months.

The earlier ballots were on a national charter and a constitution marrying Islam and Socialism, which were approved in referendums last year, and the election of Mr. Boumedienne himself as president for a renewable six year term in December.

The sole candidate, he received 99.95 per cent of the valid votes in a record turnout, according to official results.

The 261-member assembly to be elected on Friday will be Algeria's first parliament under President Boumedienne, at the top of a pyramid first started

in 1967 with municipal and later regional assemblies.

All 783 candidates -- three for each seat to be filled -- are presented by the single National Liberation Front (F.L.N.) Party. Naturally, they all have the same programme and there has been no pre-election campaign in the traditional sense of the term.

Lists of candidates were published only two weeks before the polling date. They were chosen from among thousands of applicants according to three criteria: competence, honesty and commitment to the revolution.

Under the constitution, the assembly is made up of a majority of peasants and workers, whether manual or intellectual, and few candidates are known to the public outside their constituencies. They include six members of the present government.

The assembly, elected for a five-year term, will have no right to censure and force the resignation of the government.

Its role will be to carry through a three-fold revolution -- agricultural, industrial and cultural. The constitution de-

First it wants the U.S. to use its power to force Israel to a settlement.

And second, it wants the U.S. and other western powers to make genuine concessions to the Third World in the North-South dialogue in Paris.

If Saudi Arabia gets neither of these things by the July OPEC meeting (it is possible that an emergency meeting on prices may be called before then) it may then adopt a militant attitude towards the West and lead an OPEC embargo or other actions that could once again send the Western economies into a spin.

A month before President Carter's inauguration he got word to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates that he would appreciate their holding down OPEC's intended oil price rise to a minimum. This they did and Carter subsequently described their action as "res-



Saudi Arabia's Ahmad Zaki Yamani

Selling arms is a fine way to make money and influence people, but it has its awkward side: after-sales service. It is not so much of a problem when the arms are sold to a technically competent customer, who can maintain them himself. But it is turning into a potential nightmare for the United States, over half of whose foreign arms sales in the past five years have been to rich but technically backward nations in the Middle East.

The Foreign Relations Committee of the U.S. Senate summed up the problem last August, with special reference to the Arabian Gulf. "The United States assumes the obligation of long-term support for the equipment it has sold," the Committee pointed out. "The purchaser becomes dependent on the U.S. in much the same manner as a local automobile dealer becomes dependent on Detroit."

The two countries that most worried the Senate committee, for obvious reasons, were Iran and Saudi Arabia. In the past five years, Iran has bought approximately 10.4 billion dollars worth of U.S. weapons, and it is conservatively forecast to buy almost 10 billion dollars more in the next half-decade.

Saudi Arabia's arms-buying spree is more recent. In the quarter-century before 1973, it bought only 600 million dollars worth of American weapons, but it then proceeded to buy 4.6 billion dollars worth in the next twenty months. Then, in the single year ending August, 1976, it ordered an astonishing 7.5 billion dollars worth of U.S. arms.

Both countries unquestionably have their reasons, and some are innocuous enough. Shiny new weapons keep their soldiers bappy and politically safe. Especially in Iran's case, there is a clear intention to develop

a force sufficient to deter Iraq (in the short run) and even the Soviet Union (in a possible longer run where the American guarantee became less iron-clad). But a large part of the arms build-up of Iran and Saudi Arabia is directed against each other, and is concentrated on the Arabian Gulf whose shores they share.

Even that might be no cause for alarm in itself. For years the U.S. has supplied weapons to both Israel and Jordan, in the full knowledge that they might one day fight each other again. But those countries (and Egypt, if U.S. arms sales ever get going there) can maintain and use the weapons themselves. The problem is that Iran and Saudi Arabia cannot.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee estimated last August that fifty to sixty thousand American technicians, if not more, would be needed by 1980 merely to help maintain and operate the military equipment already ordered by Iran. Tehran, it concluded, would be unable to go to war without U.S. support on a day-to-day basis.

Nor could the problem be expected to diminish any time soon. Some of the weapons Iran was buying, such as F-14 fighters and Spruance-class destroyers, were so complex that even the U.S. forces had difficulty in keeping them operational.

Saudi Arabia presents the same problem, at a lower level of technological sophistication -- but then, the average level of Saudi technical skills is correspondingly lower. Indeed, uncharitable but probably reliable estimates suggest that the ratio of Saudi regular troops to American "experts" is less than two-to-one -- a total of some 30,000 American civilians, many of whom have only recently left the armed forces. This could help explain why the Saudi defence budget in 1976-77 is virtually identical with Iran's,

although its regular force only one-sixth the number.

Neither Iran nor Saudi Arabia could fight a war in five years (or even ten years) without the presence of these American "experts" who does Washington, one of them gets embroiled in some local conflict when the U.S. does it if they should fight?

Either the U.S. lets its technicians remain, and part willy-nilly in any war it may engage in, or else they must be sent home. If most needed, and sent home, it sold practically the latter is a prospect that little cheer in and Tehran.

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U.S. ties itself up with Gulf arms sales

By Gwynne Dyer

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possible" although denying that he had offered Saudi Arabia any quid pro quo.

He said: "I don't believe an oil price decision should be a factor in the ultimate decisions concerning the Middle East." Carter must have had his tongue in his cheek for clearly the price of oil will play a crucial part in any decision.

Despite such denials, diplomats in Washington are convinced that some kind of deal has been agreed. Saudi Arabia is now clearly intimating: "You owe us a return."

On the other major issue, the North-South dialogue, Saudi Arabia is also looking for some progress and expects the West to make concessions to the demands of the Third World.

Saudi Arabia has taken great risks by standing apart from the majority of OPEC. It is looking for breakthroughs on these two issues.

As Sheikh Yamani said in

December, a few days after OPEC meeting, his will use its oil as a political weapon "at any time and circumstances" that serve its interests. Yet, although Saudi Arabia is currently under from Arab radicals that its first concern Arab unity and Arab the West misreads that will make a major blun-

Meanwhile Saudi Arabia stirred up plenty of en the OPEC ranks, es from the Shah and the in Iraq and Libya. If it obtain concessions fr West it will find itself nearly isolated within OEC and the Arab wor whole while Sheikh may well discover that er has been brought to if -- as could well be if the Saudi policy b -- he is cast in the rol apegat.

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JORDAN TELEVISION

Channel 3 & 6	18:45 Big Valley
10:00 Quran	20:00 News in Arabic
10:15 Cartoons	Channel 3
10:30 Arabic series	19:30 Religious programme
11:00 Three stooges	20:30 Arabic series
11:30 Religious programme	21:20 Reportage
12:30 Cultural programme	Channel 6
13:00 Varieties	19:30 News in Hebrew
14:30 Soccer match	19:45 Varieties
16:00 The Waltons	20:30 Cilla's comedy
16:50 Arabic series	21:10 The angels
17:30 Cultural programme	22:00 News in English
18:15 Arabic series	22:15 Kojak

ALESTINE PROTESTS

The following is the text of a letter sent by West Bank mayors to U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance prior to his recent fact-finding mission to the Middle East.

The honourable secretary of state, USA.
The people of Palestine under "Israeli" occupation.

Jerusalem,
January 31st, 1977.

would first like to congratulate you on the important with which you have been entrusted, and join the whole our high expectations from the new administration.

is not the first time that a high-ranking state official part of the world. We do not expect to be included in schedule to the Middle East, but we are a party to the which has been the major issue in world politics. In fact, is the crux of that very issue. It is common knowledge that high-ranking officials see only that aspect of the political which their host country wants them to see. In this day when leading members of the United Nations are up policies for the betterment of humanity, backs are those very basic moral principles in favour of economic as and power politics.

are the people of Palestine. We are members of that We believe that our grievances should be heard before armed into a persecuted race and before it becomes too unendments. Perhaps the following will help to clarify te that has for a long period been dimmed and blurred international media and the power of Zionist lobby.

y occupation is hateful. "Benign Israeli occupation" is a derate misrepresentation of the situation.

ousands of our men and women are in jails, living under most inhumane conditions, subjected to the alien law of occupier.

r under-age schoolchildren are arrested in great masses expressing their feelings and are not set free until their miles pay intolerable bail, the majority of whom cannot r, thus wasting their scholastic year.

ndreds of our men and women have been unjustifiably ported, thus being denied the very basic right of living their own homeland.

reed acquisition of land and the establishment of new elements over the whole of Palestine is continuing, in fiance of all protests.

ople are being evicted from their own homes, and there many cases in the heart of the Old City of Jerusalem at are still too fresh in our memories as well as in the mories of our occupier to be forgotten or denied.

e illegal unilateral annexation of Jerusalem and its judaion has been put into force in spite of the unanimous emational condemnation of that measure. Consequently, e enforcement of the "Israeli" taxation system is an un-arable burden on the Arab population.

r holy places have been desecrated; and our religious a has been disturbed.

e world stands silent in the face of these atrocities, while "rael" is giving unfounded facts in her continued viola-ons of international conventions.

would like to draw your attention to the fact that the ks upon the formation of the United Nations as a step peace and the recognition of human rights.

United States plays a leading role in this world council. "rael" military occupation of Arab territory is allowed se unchecked, then the United Nations makes a mockery ery values for which it was formed, and the United Sta- longer stand as the embodiment of liberty and freedom.

continued and guaranteed backing of "Israel" by the ates has for long obstructed any serious endeavour for ment in the area. "Israel" has never been sincere in its towards peace, and the military support of the United greatly to blame. The Palestine people wish to have faith new United States administration is sincere. In its inten- achieve a just solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict by "Israel" respect and comply without any further delay resolutions and decisions of the world body.

are now restricted in our physical movements and en- the occupiers, but our spirits are undaunted and free to the struggle for our national identity, rescue our home- build the future for our children.

lover, in addressing ourselves to you, our primary wish e the conditions of occupation which we suffer and of have first-hand knowledge, without in any way wishing e a representative role for the Palestinian people, whose imate representative is the Palestine Liberation Organi-

Thank you.

Sincerely,

The people of Palestine
under "Israeli" occupation.

AMC takes 40% share in potash project

AMMAN (JNA). — The Arab Mining Company Thursday decided to participate in Jordan's potash project with a 40 per cent contribution to its capital. The potash plant's productive capacity will be one million tonnes of potash per annum.

Board of Administration Chairman Dr. Abdul Razzaq Al Hashimi expressed his pleasure that the company was participating in this, its first mining project in the Arab world.

Representatives from Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Libya are attending the board meeting.

The company's general assembly is due to meet Saturday to approve the board's resolutions.

CIVIL AVIATION COMMITTEE MEETS

DAMASCUS, Feb. 24 (JNA). — The Jordanian-Syrian Civil Aviation Committee today held a meeting chaired by Jordanian Civil Aviation Director Sharif Ghazi Rakan and his Syrian counterpart Ahmad Antar.

The meeting studied the proposed amendments to the draft of the unified civil aviation law and decided that another sub-committee should convene here Sunday to study the amendments proposed by the Syrian team.

The committee also decided to send a joint delegation to the United States to complete negotiations on long-distance flights linking Amman and Damascus with New York.



Prince Hassan receives a group of visiting Canadian businessmen and economists at the Royal Court Thursday. (JNA photo).

Minister visits Zarqa area, workers' village

AMMAN (JNA). — Minister of Municipal Affairs Ibrahim Ayyoub Thursday afternoon presided over a meeting at Zarqa Municipality during which public services and present and future projects were reviewed. The minister paid a visit to the workers' village under construction near the town of Al Hashimiyeh.

Mr. Ayyoub pointed out that

this 1,012-unit project is expected to be completed within six months. The housing units will be distributed among fixed-income workers in the Zarqa area.

The minister was accompanied on the tour by the Under Secretary at the ministry, Mr. Ibrahim Al Otour, and the Director of the Housing Corporation, Mr. Hamdallah Nabulsi.

Aviation head leaves Jordan

AMMAN (JNA). — The Director of the Technical Department of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), Mr. Jack Vivian, left here Thursday after a three-day visit to Jordan during which he discussed with officials of the Department of Civil Aviation a plan for technical assistance to

be provided by the ICAO this year.

The plan will include training courses for technical and administrative personnel at Amman airport and the new international airport and the supply of experts and technical equipment to the Department of Civil Aviation's training centre.

Prince Hassan receives group of Canadians

AMMAN (JNA). — Prince Hassan, the Viceroy, Thursday received a Canadian group of businessmen and economists, which had arrived here Wednesday.

Welcoming the group at the Royal Court, His Highness called for economic and political cooperation between Canada and Jordan.

The Canadian visitors applauded Jordan's modern renaissance in all fields. They presented Prince Hassan with the emblem of the Olympic Games, which took place in Montreal last year.

Exchange Rates

Following are the official exchange rates in effect at the start of today's business day, as set by the Central Bank of Jordan.

The first column is how much you would receive in Jordanian fils for selling a unit of the foreign currency, while the second column denotes how much it would cost you to buy a unit of the foreign currency:

U.K. sterling	569.0	575.0
U.S. dollar	332.0	334.0
German mark	138.9	139.3
French franc	66.8	67.1
Swiss franc	131.5	131.9
Italian lira (for every 100)	37.7	37.9
Saudi riyal	94.5	95.0
Lebanese pound	112.7	113.4
Syrian pound	82.0	82.2
Iraqi dinar	942.0	948.0
Kuwaiti dinar	1,155.0	1,160.0
Egyptian pound	462.0	472.0
Libyan dinar	800.0	810.0
UAE dirham	85.5	86.0

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JD 80m tourist plan for Aqaba discussed

AMMAN (JNA). — Initial planning for a tourist project in Aqaba, considered the biggest of its kind in the Middle East, was discussed at a meeting held at the Ministry of Tourism Thursday.

The meeting discussed a Canadian offer to carry out the JD 80 million project. It provides for the construction of an artificial lake connected to the Gulf of Aqaba, tourist accommodation and four tourist hotels. This vast project will cover 2,500 dunams.

During the meeting, it was decided to form a committee of experts from the public and

private sectors to study implementation and who will carry out the project.

The meeting was attended by Minister of Tourism Ghalib Barakat, Minister of Industry and Commerce Najmeddin Dajani and representatives of government departments and the private sector.

Canadian official quarters, which had adopted the scheme, expressed readiness to share in its execution. A Canadian consultant firm was slated to carry out a feasibility study.

A Jordanian ministerial committee has been formed to follow up studies on the project.

NATIONAL NOTES

* AMMAN. — The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Minister of Development and Reconstruction, Mr. Hassan Ibrahim, Thursday received the Director of UNRWA in Jordan, Mr. John Tanner, and discussed with him the medical services which UNRWA provides to the Palestinian refugees and its employees.

* AMMAN. — The Director of the Statistics Department, Mr. Shuja' Assad, Thursday discussed with an International Bank for Reconstruction and Development Expert here on a visit the question of Jordan's manpower, its specific characteristics and the reasons for many workers leaving Jordan.

* AMMAN. — The University of Jordan will participate at the Arab Universities Committee meeting in Riyadh March 15 to discuss the possibility of setting up a pan-Arab university and similar scientific research centres.

* AMMAN. — Under Secretary at the Ministry of Industry and Commerce Dr. Hashem Dabbas Thursday returned home from Sudan. Mr. Dabbas led Jordan's delegation during economic discussions aimed at boosting economic and commercial cooperation between the two countries.

* AMMAN. — Minister of Tourism Ghalib Barakat Thursday presided over a meeting at his office to discuss the role of tourist organisations in King Hussein's silver jubilee.

* AMMAN. — A Syrian delegation from the Ministry of Transport Friday arrives here to complete discussion on the unified traffic law draft started in Damascus last month.

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Yugoslavia's many faces display themselves to the world



Russian tourists view "old town" of Dubrovnik.

Yugoslavia has made big strides toward modernisation since it chose its "independent road to socialism" under Marshal Tito after World War II.

As its population shifts from the countryside to urban areas and the industrial jobs available there, highrise apartment buildings dot the city scene.

Although many of the ethnic minorities cling to their traditions, city dwellers keep up with Western trends. Youths have made denim jeans and jackets almost a uniform.

In the 1960s Yugoslavia began to develop tourism along its scenic and mild Adriatic coast. Hotels and restaurants have sprouted up there to cater to international visitors. Skiing and other tourist facilities are being developed in the mountains.

But in the countryside the old ways persist.

Many private farmers stick to traditional methods of agriculture, although they do not produce the economic growth the more modern systems might. And peasants continue to peddle their flowers, cheeses and other produce at roadside stands or in village markets.



A grape farmer gathers his harvest.



High-school youths in Zagreb gather during a break.



Roadside peddler near Zagreb holds up a cheese for inspection.

Mongolia strives to boost agriculture despite harsh climate

In a land where temperature can fall to minus 40 degrees C, rearing livestock can be a most impossible task, but the Mongolian government in the capital, Ulan Bator, have announced plans in a bid to beat the freeze.

By David Lascelles

LONDON (F.T.). — Mongolia, that isolated country wedged between Siberia and China, lays claim to at least one world record. For every Mongolian man, woman and child there are no less than 16 farm animals, mainly sheep, horses, yaks and camels. But even this enormous figure is not enough for this barren and backward land which has little industry and even less in the way of developed raw materials.

In Ulan Bator, the capital, the Soviet-aligned communist government has just approved a new long-term plan to boost farming and raise the cattle population even further.

The traditional picture of Mongolia as a land of horse-riders driving their herds to fresh pastures still holds today. But in 1977, they belong to cooperative farms, and their homes are equipped with radios and pictures of Lenin.

At the last count 1.5 million Mongolians were herding nearly 25 million animals in the broad, treeless plains that make up most of Mongolia's landscape. The trouble lies in the word "herd". Back in 1970, the government had decreed that the livestock population must reach 25 million by 1975. But it was still below this figure a year after the deadline — a sign of the difficulties besetting Mongolian farmers.

As in the neighbouring Soviet Union, Mongolia has had trouble with its agriculture in the last two years, mainly due to the weather. The country has one of the widest temperature ranges in the world, with summer heat reaching 40 degrees C, dropping to minus 40 degrees C in the bitter winter months.

But 1974/75 brought exceptionally dry summers and cold winters which reduced the fodder crop and killed off vast numbers of young animals. By the end of 1975, the animal population, far from increasing, had actually dropped, with serious effects on the economy.

With over 80 per cent of exports consisting of agricultural produce, Mongolia's sales abroad barely increased at all. And its industry, which is mainly agriculture-based like leatherware and carpet-making, faced shortages of raw materials.

A year ago officials were talking of the need for action to protect animals from the weather, and stabilise supplies of fodder.

Although 1976 was better year, it still did not make up for earlier losses and in December, the Mongolian Mr. Yunzagiin Tsedenbal, Mongolia's premier, unveiled Mongolia's new plan, which places its on the need to raise rural output and efficiency.

The plan has several aims. The first is to speed up the construction of animal husbandry co-operatives. These are simple units erected in the countryside for animals to huddle in during freezing weather.

Mongolia built about 100,000 such units in the last five years. The second aim is to give each head of livestock a certain amount of fodder, enough to give them a million head of livestock.

But because the construction programme will over half of the herds still lack any form of winter shelter.

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Aid flows in to Yugoslavia's neglected Albanian minority

BELGRADE (C.S.M.). — Yugoslavia's biggest and poorest minority — nearly one million Albanians in Kosovo province in south Serbia — stand to benefit from a new \$56-million development loan from the World Bank.

The loan will be applied to a drainage and irrigation project affecting 50,000 acres of mainly private farmlands in Kosovo. It will speed agricultural modernisation, give an immense boost to production, and ensure drinking water supplies for the first time to many new small urban communities.

Kosovo was one of the most neglected areas in the pre-war Yugoslav kingdom and in southeast Europe generally. Today things are much better. But it still lags behind the rest of Yugoslavia, and it is politically sensitive about its position.

Albanians in Kosovo outnumber Serbs — whose forebears ran the mineral-rich province as a "colony" from Belgrade — by more than four to one. Now the province has its own constitution and home rule.

In the last decade federal investments built factories, roads, schools, and a university. The area received one-third of Yugoslavia's whole aid programme for its backward areas.

Aid, however, has not yet caught up with population growth, which is still more than three times the Yugoslav average. Per capita income is



only one-third of the national average, and per capita output only about 500 U.S. dollars annually (one-quarter of the national average).

This continued economic inferiority and its attendant political sensitivity worry Belgrade.

The problem is aggravated by the "concern" often professed by neighbouring Albania, whose Stalinist-inclined leadership shows no interest in more than cool, minimal contacts or trade exchanges with Yugoslavia.

In this dual economic-political context the World Bank loan is of particular importance; the Yugoslavs have given Kosovo top priority in the 1975-1980 plan, and this loan is tied to that priority. It will finance half the cost of the drainage-irrigation project; Belgrade will pay the rest.

Individual beneficiaries will be the 35,000 people, mostly Albanians, farming an area

at present yielding an annual 80,000 tons of fruit and vegetables. The crop estimate for 1981 is a half-million tons, including new cereal production, and a doubled output of livestock providing 18,000 tons of meat for town markets each year.

It is the World Bank's second large loan for Yugoslav agriculture improvement within a year. Previously it had granted 50 million U.S. dollars toward a nationwide "green plan" to bolster cattle-breeding and other programmes and to establish new farm centres in both the state and private sectors.

This time, there is an accompanying loan also of 56 million U.S. dollars to help build roads in other underdeveloped areas.

Since the 1960s, the Washington-based bank has been one of Yugoslavia's major sources of Western economic support. To date, Belgrade has been able to borrow 1.5 billion U.S. dollars in a series of credits.

In addition to agriculture, these have helped the development of energy and raw material resources, transportation and communications, and acquisition of new technology in many fields.

World Bank teams visiting here have voiced increasing confidence in Belgrade's current economic approach, especially in the priorities of recent years, and in some realistic adjustment to the setbacks of 1974 world recession.



Woman brings flowers to market in Zagreb.

Handwritten note in Arabic script: "هذا هو القصر"

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES H. GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF

© 1977 by Chicago Tribune

her vulnerable. South

NORTH
♠ 875
♥ K 106
♦ Q J 103
♣ K 82

EAST
♠ K 93
♥ Q J
♦ A K 8 4 2
♣ 95

SOUTH
♠ Q 10 6 4 2
♥ A 97
♦ 76
♣ A Q 3

Adding:
West North East
Pass 2 ♠ Pass
Pass

ing lead: Jack of ♣.

clarer elected to win in his hand and lead a diamond to the ten and Rose's king. Back came another club, won

in the closed-hand. Declarer led his remaining diamond. West discarded a heart and Rose was in with the ace of diamonds.

There was an obvious defense to continue diamonds. That, however, would have spelled *finis* for

the defenders. Declarer would have simply discarded his remaining club while West ruffed with a master trump, and the defenders

would have collected only three trump tricks and two diamonds.

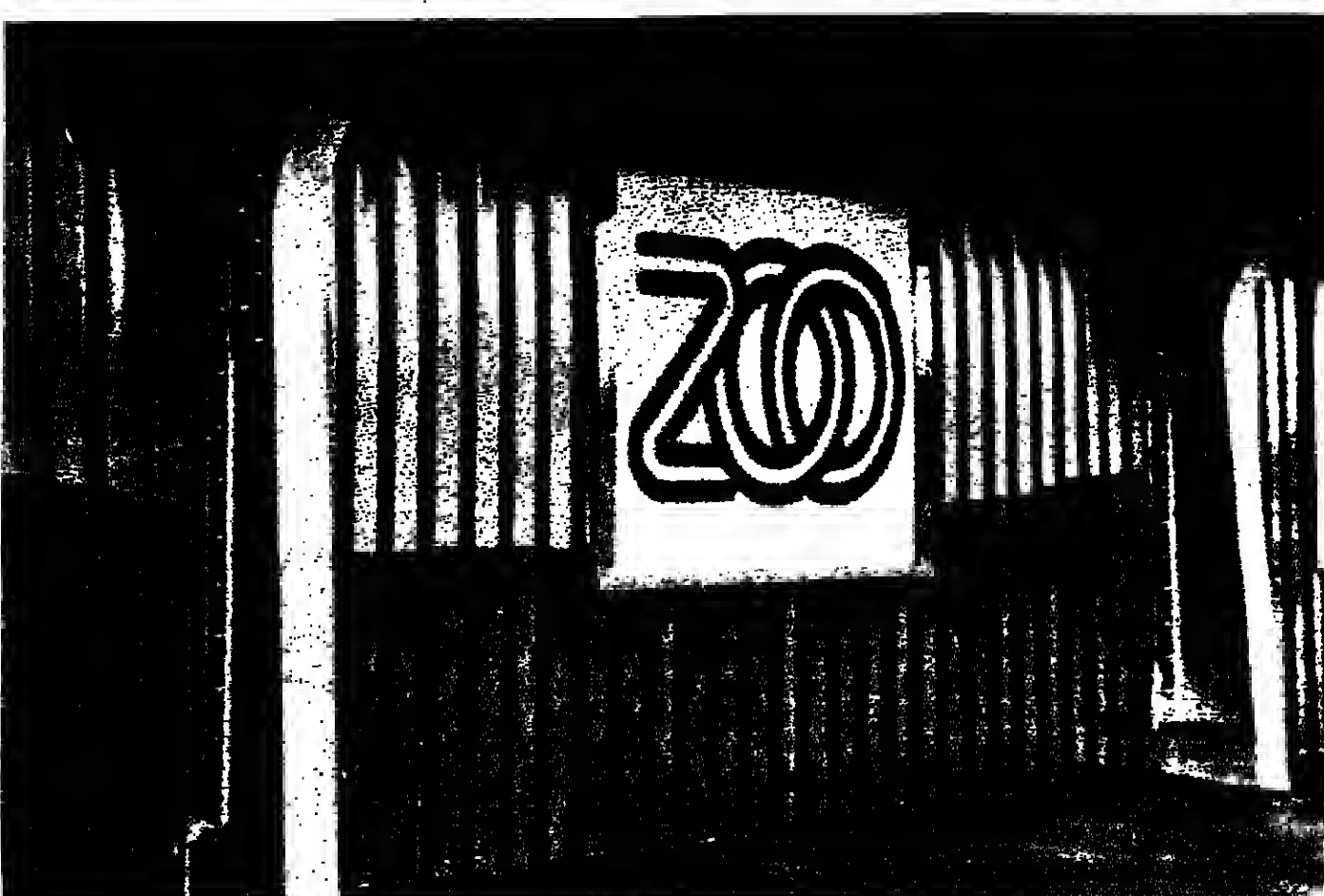
Rose unerringly found the killing return—a trump. West won the jack and the

defenders were now poised to score their trumps separately. West led a third club. East ruffed with the nine of trumps and returned a dia-

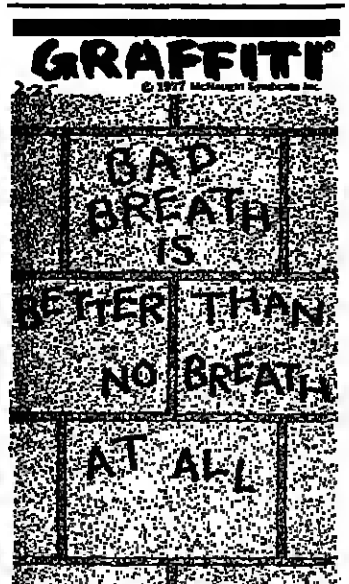
mond. West ruffed with the ace of spades and East still held the king of trumps for

the setting trick. An unusual situation—the only way to get a killing ruff is to lead a trump!

THE PAGE FIVE FEATURE PHOTO



New York City has decided to brighten up its subway stations -- such as this one near Bronx Zoo.



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GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day to attend to all of the little affairs of everyday life and you will find that you are bright and alert to whatever requires your attention. However, the evening requires considerable rest to avoid being nervous. Be sure you do nothing to offend anyone in authority.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get into those tasks that need your personal attention early and get them quickly out of the way. Make sure utilities are in good working order. Relax in evening or do some light traveling.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Concentrate on getting finances in better order during day and try to build your income appreciably. Consult with a good adviser who could help you with ideas and suggestions.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) You have many personal matters to attend to and should do so during the early part of the day so that the evening can be free from work. Talk over the future with others also.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) This is the right day to get into all the odds and ends of jobs that have been accumulating and get them done. Plan how to please a loved one. Don't be extravagant.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Those small tasks that will please your friends should be done now since they are more important than you realize. Day hours are best for going after an aim vital to you. Take it easy tonight.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Ideal day to get into those civic and career matters that are important and do them sensibly. Make sure you handle credit affairs wisely, also. Take no chances where your reputation is concerned.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Look into every phase of some new activity and confer with those whose background has been different from yours for good results. This can bring about fine things in the future.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Make sure you carry through with agreements made with others and gain their goodwill, active assistance. Your mate will appreciate any favors extended today. Be truthful, thoughtful.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Know what is expected of you by close associates and carry through to the best of your ability, and advance. Later take the health treatments you need and add to vitality.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Finish work ahead of you in a precise and clever fashion. Coordinate your efforts well with those of co-workers. Make the evening a happy one with those you love.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Plan early the recreation you want to have over the weekend, and begin this evening with music, art. Show more affection for the one you love and be happier.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Home affairs should be uppermost on your mind today and much done to keep kin happy. Study into new activities later that can prove quite profitable to you in the future. Relax tonight.

UNBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

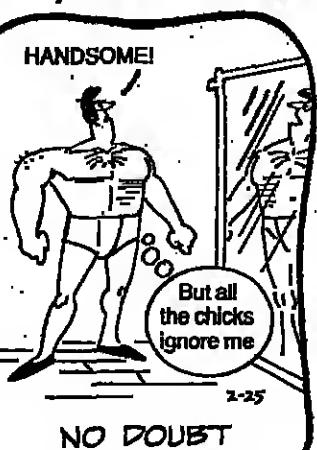
Scramble these four Jumbles, letter to each square, to form ordinary words.

ARAT

ASEC

ENART

JNNEA



NO DOUBT YOU ARE!

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print the surprise answer here:

Jumbles: CRIME HOIST BANGLE TAWDORY
Answer: A large number watch it nowadays—WEIGHT

TONIGHT'S T.V. FEATURES

KOJAK:

AN UNFAIR TRADE

Kojak investigates a murder in which the main suspect is a policeman.

CILLA'S COMEDY:

WHO'S ROCKING THE BOAT

Cilla and her friends go on a river cruise.

BIG VALLEY:

BUFFALO MAN

Three prisoners, who work in a ranch during the day fight with guard and get into trouble.

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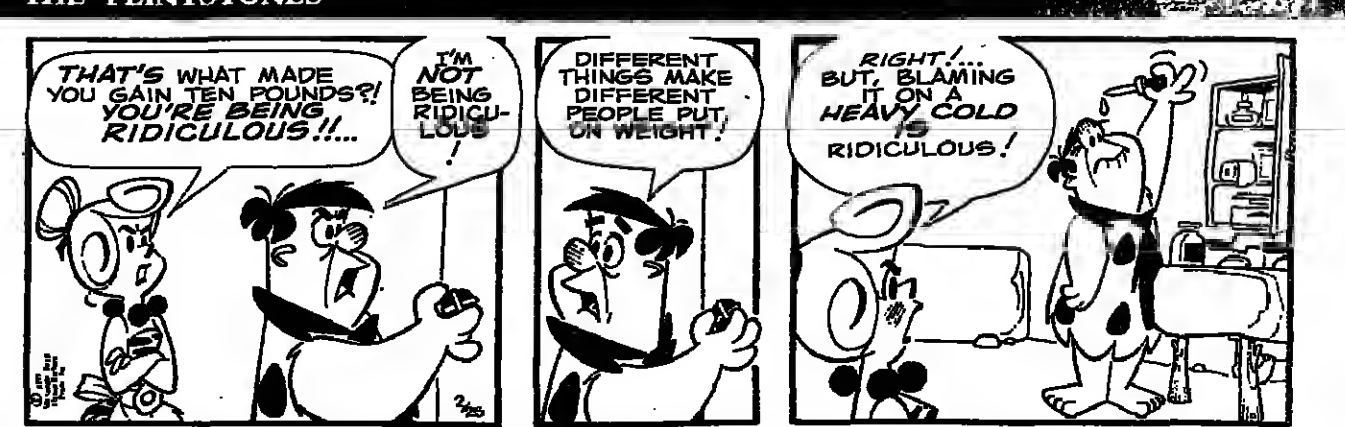
THE BETTER HALF By Barnes



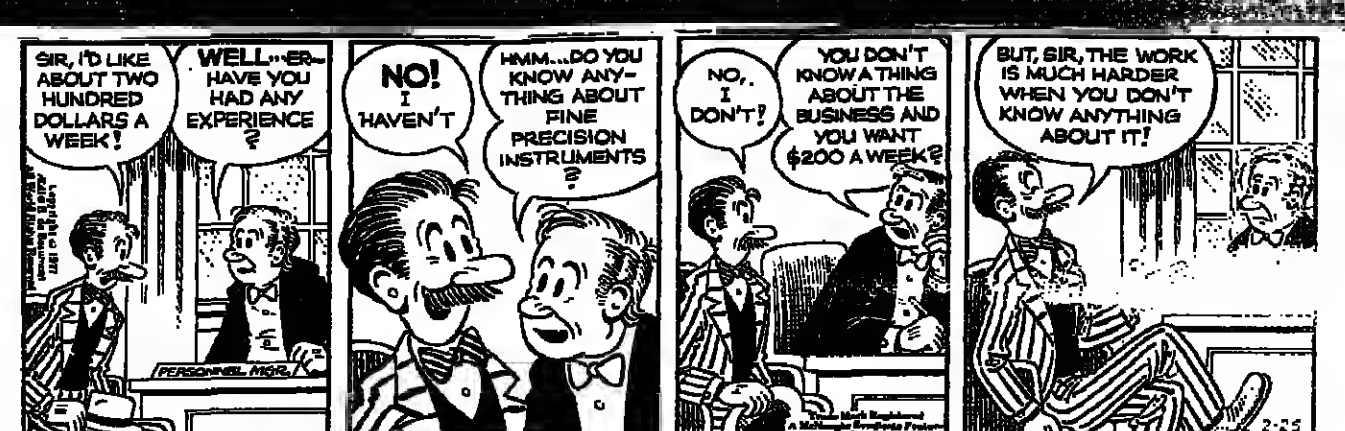
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